

ESA Regulatory Perspective- SFIREG Endangered Species Strategy Implementation (ESI) Committee

Kevin Kern, Pesticide Registration Specialist
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development

ESI Committee Chair

March 4, 2025

Why the need for the ESI Committee?

- Focus on SLA needs and perspective on how EPA strategies implemented to support EPA compliance affect states
- Allows for a formal process to address concerns
- Promotes engagement and dialogue with EPA and SFIREG representatives to ensure concerns are being addressed

Challenges

- Clarity and complexity of ESA-related requirements
- Limits of internet connectivity in rural environments
- Effective communication and explanation of requirements
- Enforceability concerns
- Sufficient resources for outreach and training needs
- Constructive engagement with mitigation experts

Identified Needs:

- Consistency in label and bulletin language
- Simplified terms and descriptions
- Improve functionality and availability of Bulletins Live! Two

Identified Needs:

- Accessibility of Information
- Training and Outreach
- Communication

Improvements

- BLT –
 - Application Program Interface (API)
 - Data downloads through BLT Advanced Resources
 - Date/time stamp printed on bulletins
 - Multiple product search capabilities
 - Improved function on mobile devices
 - Text formatting improvements for bulletins

Improvements

- Improvements in communication and coordination between SLAs and federal agencies
 - Consistent communication and meetings to ensure needs are identified and addressed
 - Email address established for more efficient problem solving and communication (ESPP@epa.gov)

Improvements

- Consistent language across all informational sources - Labels/Bulletins/Websites
 - EPA Mitigation Menu descriptions
 - Mitigation points calculator
 - USFWS / NMFS / EPA working on alignment of mitigation point scales and corresponding measure values
- Training and Outreach
 - Industry outreach to ag pesticide dealers and commercial applicators
 - USDA / IPM Center grower learning workshops
 - EPA Educational Resources Toolbox

More Work to do...

- Bulletin accessibility for applicators
- Ability of SLA's to access historic BLT information
- PULA Clarity / Overlapping Boundaries
- USFWS / NMFS mitigation points inconsistency outlined on bulletins
- Develop communication strategy

What's Next?

- Continued engagement & collaboration
 - SLAs/Federal Agencies/Industry
- Enforcement challenges
 - SLA PIRT and PREP Trainings
 - Update inspection and investigation processes
- Education and Training is key
 - Identify needs
 - Define roles
 - Eliminate duplicative efforts to conserve resources
 - Fill gaps as necessary

Questions?